

HER MAJESTY'S COUNCIL.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

FIFTH SESSION, SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
3d VICTORIA.

Friday, 3d January, 1840.

This being the day appointed for the meeting of the Colonial Legislature—

At half-past One of the Clock, p. m., the House met—

House meets.

Present,

The Honorable WILLIAM SALL, *Commandant.*

Members present.

“ “ JAMES SIMMS, *Attorney-General.*

“ “ JAMES CROWDY, *Colonial Secretary.*

“ “ JAMES M. SPEARMAN, *Collector of the Customs.*

“ “ WILLIAM THOMAS.

“ “ JOHN B. BLAND.

“ “ JOHN SINCLAIR.

At Two of the Clock, p. m., His Excellency the Governor having arrived at the Council Chamber, and being seated on the Throne, the Honorable the President of the Council commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to go to the Commons House of Assembly, and inform the Members that it was His Excellency's pleasure that they do forthwith attend at the Bar of this House; and they being come thereto, His Excellency was pleased to open the Session by a gracious Speech to both Houses.

His Excellency the Governor arrives at the Council Chamber.

The Assembly summoned to attend him.

The House of Assembly having withdrawn, His Excellency was pleased to retire.

A Copy of His Excellency's Speech having been left with the House, it was read by the Clerk, and is as follows:

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Council;

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

His Excellency's Speech.

When I closed the late Session in the month of October, it was not my intention so soon to have re-assembled the Legislature, but the pressing necessities of the utterly helpless poor have compelled me to resort to this measure; and as there are other subjects to be considered, and experience does not seem to have proved the superior advantage of our meeting in the Summer, I shall bring under your observation all the public business, both regular and incidental, trusting that the whole may be completed before the commencement of the Seal Fishery.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly;

The most urgent matter for your consideration is the present condition of the sick and impotent Poor, of Orphans and Idiots, combined with the just claims of those benevolent and industrious individuals who have long watched over and protected the two last named classes of sufferers. Since April nothing has been paid on this account, and I shall place before you afflicting statements of consequent want and wretchedness.

I am well aware that in no part of the world should eleemosynary aid be given with more caution than in Newfoundland; but the infirmities of nature and the misfortunes occasioned by the character of our occupations, are surely entitled to public commiseration and relief.

I have transmitted on all occasions to the respective Legislative Bodies, copies of such Despatches as regard my conduct in conjunction with their proceedings.